



# News Release

## WISCONSIN ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### News Advisory

## Three Guard members will enter state Army National Guard Hall of Honor

The Wisconsin Army National Guard will recognize three outstanding Guard members in its Hall of Honor ceremony at the state Capitol today [March 6].

The fifth annual induction ceremony will honor:

Brig. Gen. Richard I. Braund served the Wisconsin Army National Guard for more than 36 years as an expert in maintenance, unit movement, training and mobilization readiness. After retiring in 1985 Braund put his leadership skills to work serving in multiple civic organizations and led fundraising, research and construction efforts to create a Veterans Memorial for American Legion Post 115 in Elroy;

Brig. Gen. Sharon K. Vander Zyl was the first female general officer in the Army National Guard and served as state chief nurse in the Wisconsin Guard, developing innovative joint medical training programs that enhanced readiness of medical assets of the Army, Air Force and Navy in Wisconsin, Illinois and Minnesota before serving as special assistant to the chief of the Army Nurses Corps;

Col. Ernest Gerber demonstrated his military and leadership skills when he led a 1942 assault on Buna in Papua New Guinea and was then sent to officer candidate school in Australia. He returned to the World War II battlefield as a second lieutenant in 1943 to continue the fight. After the war Gerber served more than 40 years, achieving the rank of colonel and becoming the chief of staff for the Wisconsin Army National Guard;

The induction ceremony will be held in the Assembly Chamber, State Capitol, Madison, today, March 6, at 2:00 p.m.

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**Note to editors and news directors:** The Hall of Honor induction ceremony will include presentation of the colors, music by the 132nd Army Band, and remarks by Lt. Gov. Barbara Lawton. For further information, or to make advance arrangements for interviews, contact Lt. Col. Tim Donovan at 608-242-3050.